

June 6th, 2023

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
11296 Wood Duck Lane
Guys Mills, PA 16327-9499
Attention: French Creek Proposal

To whom it may concern,

In the months following the proposal for the French Creek National Wildlife Refuge announcement, my office has received dozens of calls from local residents who are opposed to the plan. I have directly engaged The White House and senior level USFWS representatives to begin having discussions on this matter, which include public engagement with my constituents.

I firmly stand with all Pennsylvania and New York Landowners who remain highly concerned about the impacts an expansive wildlife refuge will have not only on our local government's ability to perform basic public services, but most importantly, the infringement upon the rights of the individual landowner.

It is my belief the USFWS should reconsider the proposed French Creek National Wildlife Refuge and consider providing federal resources to assist local organizations who share and are actively meeting the agency's goals of protecting French Creek, one of our region's most important natural resources.

I believe this greatly affects our region and heavily infringes upon the autonomy of landowners and their rights afforded to them under the Constitution of the United States of America. The use of one's land and the sanctity of family homes and farmsteads passed from generation to generation may not mean much to Washington D.C. Bureaucrats, but here in Erie County, Pennsylvania – it's who we are.

No one is better positioned to be partners in a clean and recreational French Creek watershed than these landowners along the proposed refuge. These folks have the most to lose otherwise. Our kids swim and play in the creek, our cattle and other livestock drink from it, as do the wells from which we drink. We take being good stewards of the environment and our property rights very seriously. I appreciate USFWS's commitment to French Creek's future and to our region. I look forward to working with you on this matter as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenton Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Brenton Davis

Erie County Executive